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ECONOMIC SERVICES DIVISION

Committee on China

(Minutes of Thirty-third Meeting -- 1400 hours, 17 May 1955)

Present: Messrs.: [REDACTED]

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The following items of current interest were discussed:

1. NCNA has announced that China's first automobile plant will be completed this year.

25X1 [REDACTED] heavy rail traffic moving south from Shanghai during a three-week period (probably in February) this year.

3. Commemoration ceremonies at the Thailand-Cambodia border crossing point were scheduled for 21 April, but it is not known whether regular traffic has commenced.

4. There has been a large increase in the number of newspapers distributed through the Chinese postal system--from about half a billion in 1950 to almost two billion in 1954; it is now claimed that China is self-sufficient in newsprint.

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5. Further evidence of the food shortage in China is the large number of refugees seeking to leave South China for Macao and Hong Kong and the reiteration of the need for greater marketing controls throughout China. Although the drought in South China has finally broken, it is estimated that the fall harvest will be adversely affected.

6. Peking newspaperers have again taken up the theme of burgeoning bureaucracy, and it is claimed that reorganizations are taking place in central-level organs and various provincial governments.

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